

## CalWORKs Homeless Assistance and Housing Support

### *Homeless Assistance Program Overview*

- CalWORKs Homeless Assistance provides a once-in-a-lifetime payment to meet the reasonable costs of obtaining permanent housing, and/or temporary shelter while seeking permanent housing.
- A typical family is eligible to receive benefits of up to \$65 per night for 16 consecutive days of temporary shelter while searching for permanent housing.
- Families may also be eligible to receive up to 2 months of rental assistance in order to obtain permanent housing or 2 months of rental arrearages to prevent eviction.
- An average of 3,248 requests for temporary and permanent assistance are approved every month. For SFY 2014/15, there were a total of 38,987 cases approved at a cost of \$30.2 million.

### *Housing Support Program (HSP) Overview*

- Senate Bill (SB) 855 (Chapter 29, Statutes of 2014) allocated \$20 million for a new HSP for homeless CalWORKs recipients which provided funding for 20 counties.
- For fiscal year 2015-2016, the allocation increased to \$35 million which provided funding to 44 counties.
- In following core components of a Rapid Re-Housing program, HSP assists families in quickly obtaining permanent housing by offering financial assistance and several wrap-around supportive services to foster housing retention.

### *HSP Accomplishments and Goals*

- After 16 months of implementation (September 2014-December 2015) nearly 8,000 families have been approved for HSP and have received or are receiving case management services and/or financial assistance. Over 3,000 families have moved to permanent housing.
- In SFY 2014/15, counties maximized the HSP allocation, spending over 60% on direct financial assistance, in addition to an estimated 15% on direct case management services.
- CDSS provides continued oversight, technical assistance, and training opportunities to ensure utilization of Rapid Re-Housing best practices.
- Key focus areas include:
  - Strengthening collaboration with the local Continuum of Care to integrate HSP within the local homeless services system,
  - Building Rapid Re-Housing capacity by developing landlord relationships and increasing housing stock;
  - Incorporating HSP into the overall CalWORKs program including Family Stabilization and Expanded Subsidized Employment, while leveraging funding to maximize the HSP allocation.

### Key Dates

- ❖ **1987:** Homeless Assistance is established.
- ❖ **October 2014:** First 20 counties began implementing HSP.
- ❖ **September 2014 - June 2015:** CDSS convened four HSP seminars.
- ❖ **July 2015 - August 2015:** 44 counties requested funding for FY 2015-16.
- ❖ **October 2015:** CDSS allocated HSP funds to all 44 counties totaling \$35 million.
- ❖ **November 2015:** All HSP counties attended trainings on Rapid Rehousing.
- ❖ **CalWORKs Housing Support Program Webpage:**  
<http://www.cdss.ca.gov/calworks/PG3658.htm>